

Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002700067000-19

~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Ecuador

SUBJECT Pedro Saad's Remarks on the Progress of
Democracy in Ecuador

PLACE 25X1A6a

ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO: 11/11/68

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Next Review Date: 2008

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 23 MAY 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Federacion de Estudiantes Universitarios Ecuatorianos (FEUE) held a meeting on 30 March in the auditorium of the Central University of Quito to commemorate the abortive attempt by President Velasco Ibarra to set up a dictatorship on 30 March 1944. Juan Manosalva, president of the FEUE, opened the meeting with remarks as to its purpose and the place of the students in the opposition to the dictatorship of Velasco Ibarra. He also stated that a serious situation was confronting the students today because of the inability of the present government to meet its responsibilities to the people and because of the dangers which threaten the peace.
2. Manosalva introduced the principal speaker, Pedro Saad, Acting Secretary General of the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE), by saying that the FEUE members were Socialists but that they were also on the side of the countries which were struggling for peace and fighting against the imperialists who were attempting to provoke a new world war. According to source, Manosalva, though publicly considered a Socialist, is known within Communist circles as a strong Communist sympathizer.
3. The subject of Saad's address was "The Process of Democracy in Ecuador". Saad stated that the Marxist theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, as the medium to a proletarian democracy, has given way to "the popular democracy" or people's government, and he cited as examples the coalition of workers and farmers as practiced in Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. He stated that the Marxists did not believe in an alteration of the constitutional order of the country at present because the result of a revolution would be chaos and the country would run the risk of a military dictatorship. The proletarian democracy resulting from a proletarian revolution will reach Ecuador some time in the future, Saad predicted.
4. Saad stated that Ecuador does not have a true democracy under the Constitution and that a democracy is not possible there because millions of people without land of their own submit to the minimum standard of living while 139 families form the ruling class; and because 100,000 persons out of a population of about 4,000,000 elect the President. He stated further that there were two great forces which decisively obstructed the realization of democracy in Ecuador, and these are feudalism and imperialism which the people must struggle to abolish. He insisted upon division of the land; collective farming; a

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revision of the Constitution in order to provide woman suffrage; equal opportunities for education; protection of natural resources; and he accused the "imperialist" oil companies, Shell and Standard Oil, of having robbed the nation of its sovereign rights and riches.

5. There were approximately 250 persons at this meeting, among whom were the following:

a. Active members of the PCE:

Primitivo Barreto	Gustavo Becerra	Cesar Endara
Maria Luisa Gomez de la Torre	Nela Martinez	Anibal Endara
Vicente Bravomalo	Carlos Besantes	Luis Antonio Cofre
David Amores	Manuel Rivas	

b. Sympathizers or fellow travelers:

Aurelio Olarte	Dr. Hugo Maldonado	Miguel Angel Cevallos
		Hidrovo
Luis F. Chavez	Carlos Sevilla	Gonzalo Oleas
Dr. Gustavo Buendia	Dr. Eduardo Santos	

c. Leftists:

Lt. Colonel Carlos Patino of the Ecuadoran General Staff.

6. Subsequent to this meeting, Socialists and members of the PCE severely criticized Pedro Saad for his remarks about the incumbent government. Many of them thought that he should have openly denounced the Plaza regime instead of speaking of it as being better than a dictatorship.

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